Transcript of telephone conversation between Richard Burnes and anonymous caller (friend of Abraham Bolden)

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Could be IMPORTANT

A. . . . Secret Service. I conducted interviews with various Cuban exiles.

B. Uh huh.

A. Later I was involved with the Minutemen.

B. Uh huh. Well, let me say this, I didn't get your name originally, or did you give it.

A. I didn't give you my name.

B. Uh huh. It's just that you are friend of Abraham Bolden?

A. Ah, yes, uh,- You see I'm calling on a public phone. How are your lines down there? Do you think you're being bugged?

B. Well, half the time I think they are, and half the time I think they aren't. So. . .

A. Well, that's why I'm not giving you my name.. . .

B All right.

A. . . . because there would be definite repercussions.

B. All right. That's all right with me.

A. Another way you could check on me is through the Federal Reports for 1964; Federal Reports for 1966 of December. I'm written up as having done the undercover work in those two cases.

B. Let me say this: The information you have, is it about the assassination, or is it about Abraham Bolden?

A. The assass. . .

B. I know that some of it is related together.

A. It's both related.

A. Definitely. Definitely.

B. All right.

A. It's of a matter I have for the last eight years performed undercover assignments for the Treasury Department - various departments of the Treasury. Secret Service, alcohol tax, treasury intelligence. I'm a civilian, and from time to time I work big contracts, and the weekend following the assassination I did . . .

Telephone operator signaled 3 minutes.

Immediately following the assassination I did background work here in Chicago conducting interviews with Cuban leaders and with a - as an outcome of that why, I was given an assignment to break up the Minutemen here in Illinois. In fact, on the date that they arrested Abraham Bolden corresponded with the same date that we grabbed the head of the Minutemen here in Illinois. There could be repercussions on my part. That's why I am trying to be extremely cautious.

B. Right.

A. I would enjoy talking to someone, if you get someone in the Chicago area, because I think he would be amazed at what I have.

B. Well, let me ask you this: Is there any way that you could come down here?

A. No. There's no possible way I could come down there. At this time I have a - some personal problems at home that it's impossible to get away from. And then I work five days a week. It's absolutely impossible for me to get out of Chicago at this time.

B. Is there any way you could give me the nature of the information? How is would ah. Let me be frank with you. I'm sure you're being frank with me.

A. Four days prior to the assassination, I had a conversation with one party who said that it was going to come off in Dallas; that the man would be shot. Bolden knows of this.

Name?

B. Uh huh. All right, now, where would I get in touch with you if I wanted to send someone up to Chicago?

A. . . . . a definite time.

B. Let me tell you this. See, quite frankly, I want to have someone from my office talk to you because if what you say is - if this is on the up-and-up, it's really vital information for us and for the country. But I would have to have some way where I can get in touch with you, you know, where we can. . .

A. All right, here's a phone number. Just a minute. We use this as a headquarters away from home, and away from the office. AL-2-9434.

B. Let me make sure I've got this down now. AL-2-9434. Now, what time of the day can we reach you.

A. I can be reached Monday through Friday, from 10:00 o'clock, oh, from 10:15 until 11:15 at this number.

B. All right.

A. Monday through Friday. And. . .

B. All right. What name would I have to ask for?

A. When you have - in the event you should have someone contact me here, for instance, say you're man's name was Jim or Paul or John, he would say this is Cousin John calling, or Cousin Paul calling, or whatever his name happens to be, Cousin Paul calling and ask for Tom.

B. For Tom?

A. Uh huh.

B. All right. Now, is there any way you could come down here if we paid the expenses?

A. I would have to slip out of town.

B. See, here's what I'm getting up to: With me going up there, I don't know everything and there's other people down here who don't know everything, but with three or four of us together down here, we would know more. In other words, you might say something to me that might be vitally important but it may not ring a bell. See? Do you follow what I'm thinking?

A. I understand. Is there any way you can contact Abraham Bolden?

B. Oh yes. I can contact him through his attorney.

A. How long does that take you?

B. Well, I can pick up the phone and . . .

A. Well, I mean in order to verify who I am, and I think Abe will verify who I am.

B. Well, you see, quite frankly, I would have to pick up the phone and ask his attorney to go out and see him and then phone me back. We can do that. But the point is, if you tell me that you worked with him and that you investigated these people, you knew of the assassination four days ahead of time, then I don't feel like I really have to go through the verification there.

A. I merely mention that to - should there be some doubt in your mind.

B. Right. Well, there's doubt in my mind on every witness, but, I mean, the point of it is nonetheless I believe that what you said so far, you know, is not anything to where I should be skeptical. You see the point that I'm making?

A Uh huh.

B. So, what I wanted to do, and the reason why I asked you about coming down here is not because I don't believe anything that you've said, not by a long shot. But the point is, if I go up there and talk to you and I don't know the things to ask you, and someone else does, and we - you know. Because you may tell me something and I may not even realize it's important, but yet someone else down here might say, "Well look, that's very important."

A. Yeah.

B. See?

A. When it gets back again to Bolden, I wish now that you would verify with Bolden who I am.

B. Uh huh.

A. One way of refreshing his memory fast is a party by the name of "Tom" called and that you've met in regards to "Georgio".

B. In regard to who?

A. "Georgio"

B. Georgio. G E O R G E L?

A. "G E O R G I O U"

B. All right. I'll talk with him then and we'll get back. But you can be reached at this phone any time between 10:15 and 11:15?

A Yes.

B. That's a one hour period?

A. Uh huh.

B. Is it A.M.?

A. A.M., and how soon could you verify with Bolden do you think?

B. Well, the main thing is, is to find out if we have someone we can send up there. See? Quite frankly, since I don't know the area that you're talking in, we'll have to do a little checking to see ah. Who'll go up there. Who knows the area. Really, I believe Let me say this: Tom, I really believe if there's any way we can get you to come down here, it would probably be the best thing. You know?

A. Well, can you verify it with Bolden some time today who I am?

B. Well, no, I can't say that I can do that necessarily this quickly. Here's the reason. That I'll have to call him and his lawyer can only go out there at certain visiting hours. And there's also already been a little ---- You know, you can't pick up the phone and talk to him. But I know Mr. Hosmeier would go out there. There's no problem, but they have certain visiting hours [illegible] there's already a little bit of bad feelings between [illegible] the penitentiary officials there.

A. Well, you see, here several months ago - what prompted this call - was several - during December someone has been trying to contact me, pin me down to my location, et cetera etcetera, And the story was that they were from Mr. Garrison's office. I checked. I have my own way of checking. The party was definitely phoney. I had a conversation in the -- Hello-- I had a conversation in the Chicago

B. I heard the same click you did. They're obviously checking to see if I'm still on the phone. You see, you're speaking to me through a switchboard.

A I had a conversation following this party that was attempting to contact me. Allegedly, he was from Garrison's office. I checked it out. It was phoney. Then I had contact with the Secret Service here and I was given a very definite warning. And I am one person that has in the past performed services for this country's government. I am in being intimidated.

B. But you don't believe that you could come down here if we pay the expense?

A. After you verify with Bolden, I could possibly slip out of town.

B. All right. Fine. I'll verify with him and we'll get back in touch with you at this number.

A. As soon as possible.

B. Okay. Fine.

A. I mean, I have certain fears that the CIA is involved.

B. All right. Fine. I will verify with him and I'll get back in touch with you. It will take probably a whole extra day to get, you know, verified through him because of their visiting hours.

A. I see.

B. But we'll ring at this number. Now, you can be reached at this number at those hours. Monday through Friday.

A I can be reached at - you can talk to me in person in those hours. Or, you can always call there, ask for Ed.

B. Ask for ED.

A. And, what is your first name?

B. Richard.

A. You're Cousin Richard.

B. All right.

A. You're Cousin Richard. Ask for Ed. This is Cousin Richard, I would like to leave word for Tom.

B. All right. Fine. In other words, leave a message for you to get in touch with me.

A. Yeah.

B. All right. Fine. And after I talk to Bolden, we'll see what we can arrange.

A. All right.